



PRESS RELEASE

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THIRD DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN “HOME MAILER PROGRAM” FRAUD SCHEME

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced today that ELIZABETH RUTH McGUIRE, 22, of Scottsdale, Arizona, was sentenced to 8 months custody in federal district court, in Phoenix, Arizona, for her part in operating a “home mailer program” fraud scheme. McGuire was the third and final defendant convicted and sentenced in this case by United States District Court Judge Susan R. Bolton.

McGUIRE was charged with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1341, the Mail Fraud statute, in connection with her participation in a long-running “bait and switch” envelope stuffing business. From early 1999 through late 2000, McGUIRE and others operated two businesses known as Venture Products and Apex Materials, which ran advertisements in periodicals across the United States offering people the opportunity to “earn more than \$1000 per week working from home.” The advertisements represented that Venture and Apex had numerous direct mail advertising clients who were in need of home workers to stuff their mailers, and that through Venture or Apex the home worker would have unlimited mailer envelopes to stuff, earning between \$3.00 and \$3.50 per envelope. Venture and Apex

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required prospective home workers to mail a “registration fee” of between \$18.00 and \$36.00 to purchase their “home mailer program,” which would explain how the home worker would receive and process the advertisements and envelopes to be stuffed, and earn their money. Over the course of this fraud, nearly nine thousand victims purchased the “home mailer program,” only to learn that neither Venture nor Apex had any advertising clients or any envelopes to send them for processing.

Co-defendants Jason T. Price and David C. Anderson, both of Scottsdale, previously were sentenced in this case for their part in operating Apex and Venture or a similar business, Nationwide Commodities.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service.

The prosecution is being handled by John Joseph Tuchi, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-686-PHX-SRB
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